

NEWSLINE RADIO - CBBS EDITION #110 - POSTED 02/09/94

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The following is late news about Amateur Radio for Radio Amateurs as prepared from NEWSLINE RADIO scripts by the staff of the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, INC. -- formerly the WESTLINK RADIO NETWORK. The electronic version of newslines is posted on this CBBS twice monthly. For current information updates, please call

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For further information about the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, please write to us with an SASE at P.O. Box 463, Pasadena, CA

91102.

Thank You  
NEWSLINE

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Some of the hams of NEWSLINE RADIO...

WA6ITF WB6MQV WB6FDF K6DUE W6RCL N6AHU N6AWE N6TCQ K6PGX N6PNY  
KU8R N8DTN W9JUV KC9RP K9XI KB5KCH KC5UD KC0HF G8AUU WD0AKO DJ0QN  
and many others in the United States and around the globe!!!

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[860]

\* \* \* \* C L O S E D C I R C U I T A D V I S O R Y \* \* \* \*  
\* \*  
\* The following is a closed circuit advisory and is not \*  
\* for transmission over amateur radio. Repeat, not for \*  
\* broadcast. This is just a reminder that the address for \*  
\* the Newsline Support Fund is Newsline, in care of Dr. Norm \*  
\* Chalfin, K6PGX, Post Office Box 463, Pasadena, CA 91102. \*  
\* Again, and as always, we thank you. That ends the closed \*  
\* circuit with Newsline report number 860 for release on \*  
\* Friday February, 4 1994 to follow. \*  
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The following is a QST

The ARRL petitions for an lifetime ham radio ticket and a  
court says that a ham does have a right to a tower and antenna.

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#### LIFETIME HAM LICENSE PETITION FILED

The ARRL has petitioned the FCC to make Amateur Radio operator  
licenses valid for life. The League says in its petition at  
there is nothing in the Communications Act of 1934 that would  
prevent such a license term for radio amateurs. It wants a  
lifetime operator's license to allow inactive amateurs to return  
to the Service at the same class of license without the necessity  
for retesting.

This proposal will apply only to operator licenses, Amateur  
radio station licenses would still, by law, be limited to a  
10-year term. A person with a lifetime operator license but no

station license would not be permitted to operate a station of his own but would be able to operate from the station of another amateur. The League says that nothing in this proposal should have any effect on the FCC's call sign issuance program either as it currently exists or as proposed in the vanity call sign program.

The ARRL says that it is not proposing at this time to make this rule change retroactive. Rather it suggests the easiest way to implement it is simply to extend currently held operator licenses from 10 years to life. No rule making number has yet been assigned to this ARRL regulatory change request.

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#### TOWER VICTORY

A federal appeals court has found in favor of a Minnesota ham in the latest round of her three-year battle to install a tower and antenna.

Back in January of 1991 Sylvia Pentel, N0MRW, applied to the city of Mendota Heights for a zoning variance for a 68-foot crank-up tower. At the time, she was using a roof-mounted vertical which she was unaware, violated the city's zoning rules. The city denied her application for a tower but did grant Pentel a special-use permit to allow her to keep the vertical.

But that did not satisfy N0MRW. Pentel sued the city in U S district court. Her attorney John B. Bellows Jr, K0QBE argued that the ordinance restricting her tower and antenna was preempted by federal law. A law known as PRB-1 which recognizes the needs of both municipalities and amateurs radio operators. A law which requires a reasonable accommodation of the needs of radio amateurs.

When the district court found in favor of the city Pentel appealed. It was the United States Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit that has now ruled that in establishing PRB-1 the FCC was attempting to strike a balance between the interests of municipalities and ham radio operators. The court noted that granting a special-use permit for Pentel's vertical was not an acceptable accommodation to the radio amateur under the terms of PRB-1 and ordered the city to try again.

The court did put some limit on its decision. It said that its finding does not mean that the city must necessarily grant Pentel's application for a tower as it stands. Rather, it stated the Mendota Heights Minnesota must make a reasonable accommodation to insure her interests as a radio amateur are protected.

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#### VAN SICKLE

A United States District Court in Texas has written the end to the story of Terry Van Sickle, WB5WXI by sentencing him to 90 days of home confinement, three years probation, fining him one thousand dollars and ordering that he undergo a group counseling program as directed by the probation office.

Van Sickle is the WFAA television news cameraman who had been accused by the Federal Bureau of Investigation of harassing customers at a Mc Donalds restraint drive-thru window last summer. He initially protested his innocence to the media. One newspaper even ran a two column feature about Van Sickle, quoting him as saying that the frequencies used by Mc Donalds are posted on computer bulletin boards and anyone could have been responsible.

But on October 18th Terry Van Sickle changed his story. He pleaded guilty to one count of violating Title 47, section 333 of the United States Code by willfully and maliciously interfering with radio communications. Sentencing was set for early January. At that time he faced a maximum term of a year in prison and \$100,000 fine.

The lighter sentence of 90 days home confinement and probation falls under federal sentencing guidelines. It is mitigated by the fact that Van Sickle has also lost some fifteen thousand dollars worth of scanners, two-way radios and other gear that was confiscated at the time he was detained.

Van Sickle's troubles may not be over yet. There is every likelihood of FCC administrative action to strip him of any federally issued radio licenses. There is also the possibility of civil action against him by Mc Donalds Corporation to recoup any losses incurred as the result of his jamming of their radio system.

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#### QUAKE

Amateur Radio Emergency Service and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service operators are still involved emergency communication in the aftermath of last weeks 6.6 magnitude earthquake in Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley. Even though most normal lines of communications were restored within 48 to 72 hours, ham operators are still assisting police, fire, Red Cross and local emergency management officials with disaster assessment using local VHF and UHF communications.

As a result, all hams in the affected areas not involved in the emergency communications effort have been asked to give priority to meeting these emergency communications demands. These hams should not transmit on emergency net frequencies, except when directed to do so by net control stations. Also,

priority is being given to outgoing messages since most amateurs in some affected areas are still unable to deliver incoming messages until phone service is restored and roads are repaired. Health and welfare traffic was not accepted from the public until authorities in the affected areas indicate they are able to process such inquiries. Some emergency net operations are expected to continue for at least another two weeks.

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#### ARRL SAY NO TO NJ RADIO TAX

Officials of the American Radio Relay League have told the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Energy that a state proposal to register and impose fees on radio transmitters and other RF sources was contrary to federal law. At least as the law is related to radio amateurs.

As reported several weeks ago, the New Jersey proposal exempted Amateur Radio stations at this time but leaves a door open for future regulation of hams and imposition of fees.

But ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, N3AKD says that only the FCC has the power to license and regulate radio transmitters. Imlay says that applying the proposed regulations to amateurs would effectively preclude Amateur Radio communications in New Jersey.

By the way, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Energy has extended the deadline for comments on the proposal until February 22nd. Hams in New Jersey and the surrounding states are being encouraged to write the New Jersey legislature in opposition to the radio tax proposal.

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#### SAREX STS-60

This word just in. There will be three ham radio-licensed crew members aboard Space Shuttle Discovery, STS-60, scheduled for launch February 3rd. Commander Charles Bolden, KE4IQB, and Mission Specialist Ronald Sega, KC5ETH, have now received their Technician Class licenses. The third licensed crew member is Russian Cosmonaut Sergei Krikalev, U5MIR who is a Mission Specialist on the STS-60 SAREX flight.

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#### DX

In DX, word that The Lambda Amateur Radio Club will sponsor it's third DXpedition from March 5th to the 10th. Larc members are planning to operate on HF and OSCAR-13 Mode B and Mode S from the Caribbean island of Anguilla in British West Indies.

The operators making the trip will be Jim Kelly KK3K, Don Bledsoe WB6LYI, Mark Wilcox KC3XC, Tom Hendrix KI4ZN, Howard Wyman W9BVD, Norm Gray KF7IK, James Keeth AF9A, and Wayne Schuler AI9Q. QSL for all operators is direct to their respective current Callbook addresses. By the way, this may be the first OSCAR-13 Mode S DXpedition for the record books.

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#### QRP-DX

Also, two QRP Nets located in the Pacific Northwest are now available to help you to meet other low power enthusiasts throughout the country. The North West QRP Club meets every Monday evening at 03:00 UTC on 10.123 MHz. The Northwest QRP Club Saturday morning Net can be found at 07:30 UTC on 3.561 MHz. If you are interested in receiving a free copy of their NWQ Newsletter, please send a SASE to Bill Todd 4153 49th Ave. Southwest, Seattle, Washington 98116.

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#### NATIONAL EXAM DAYS

Two ARRL National Exam Days have been set for 1994. The dates are May 14 and October 29. Details will be in February issue of QST magazine.

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#### DOOB

A ham who ran last Novembers' New York City Marathon to raise money for cancer research will be doing it again on the west coast. Fred Doob, AA8FQ has announced that he will run in the March 6th Los Angeles Marathon and will be on the air before and during the race.

With backing from Icom America, Doob says that he will hold as many QSO's as he can while running the course. He says he plans to operate repeaters on 145.200, 146.925, 445.325 and 447.235 MHz. Fred will also try his luck on the national simplex calling channel of 146.52 MHz. His frequency coordination is being handled by the Baldwin Hills Amateur Radio Club and if band conditions warrant, he may try some 20 meter remote base operation on 14.295 MHz as well.

AA8FQ's participation in the New York City Marathon raised approximately \$2500 that was donated to the Sloan Kettering Memorial Cancer Center. This time the proceeds of sponsored miles will benefit the Los Angeles Childrens Cancer Research Fund. This organization is considered one of the leading pediatric cancer research organizations in the country.

Hams interested in sponsoring miles to be run by Fred can contact him at area code 216-721-2466. In the meantime, Newsline wishes Fred Doob AA8FQ good luck in his next run to save lives.

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